SARA SKYWAVES

W5SRA

hello SPRING **MARCH 2024**

President's Message

Hello March!

I hope this letter finds everyone well!

Thank you all for your understanding as my wife was having a medical emergency during the last meeting and for allowing me to cut it short. She is doing fine.

Look for a Parks on the Air activation in the near future or maybe Salmon Park. With the coming of mild weather outdoor activities are so much fun.

The Board of Directors proposed some changes to the By-Laws and in January we updated some of the wording. Changes were be published in February's SkyWaves and will be published later in this edition of SkyWaves for your review. We will be voting on those changes at our next meeting March14th. We also will be covering some unfinished business from January.

With ARRL's Field Day only 4 months away we will be discussing plans for that activity. Just a reminder it's not the Board's Field Day but the club's. Please bring your ideas that you would like to see happen and a plan to make it happen.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the meeting Thursday night the 14th .

73,

Andy Barnes, W5KZJ

JOIN US ON THE AIR

ALL SARA operations and all Sachse ARES/RACES operations are being conducted on the W5SRA repeater

The Sachse Amateur Radio Association uses the W5SRA repeater in Sachse, TX:
Frequency: 440.350 MHz
Shift: +5MHz
PL tone: 110.9 (Tx & Rx)

SARA Weekly Information Net
Monday, 7:00 PM on the W5SRA Repeater

The W5SRA repeater is accessible via EchoLink and AllStarLink.
Sachse Radio Club **AllStarLink Instructions**: (Click Here)
Please use node 528831 to connect using AllStarLink

Next General Meeting

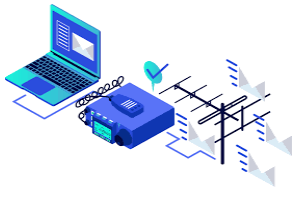
Thursday, March 14 @ 7:30 PM

North Pointe Church of Christ

7030 S State Hwy 78,

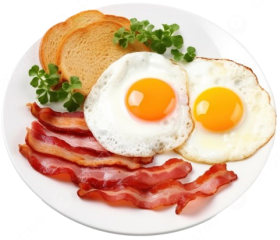
Sachse, TX 75048

Topic: Winlink Basics—Dave Gross W6JDG



QSO Breakfast

Meet us each Saturday at 7:30am at **Ballard Street Cafe**, 112 N. Ballard in downtown **Wylie**. People begin showing up around 7:00 with most showing up by 7:30am.



Next Board Meeting:

March 28, 2024 via

Google Meet at this link.

ANY MEMBER IS WELCOME TO JOIN US!!

ARRL

Amateur Radio Operators Needed for Help with Solar Eclipse Project

02/23/2024

The Case Amateur Radio Club, W8EDU, the club station at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, is asking for amateur radio operators to help with a research project centered around the April 8, 2024, solar eclipse.

W8EDU club member Adam Goodman, W7OKE, said the project centers around studying the effects of the eclipse on propagation to better understand the recombination time of the ionosphere.

"To do this, we are recruiting North American amateur stations interested in recording the Canadian time standard station CHU (Canada's WWV) for two weeks surrounding the eclipse," added Goodman. "Anyone with a KiwiSDR or a rig that can interface with analysis/recording software such as Fldigi is encouraged to reach out to us to participate."

W8EDU club member and project software manager Maris Usis, KE8TXG, said that while the software is simple to use, there is some detailed work involved. "We can help make it easier and there are good online instructions as well," said Usis.

All of the participation details are on the club's website at https://w8edu.wordpress.com/chu-eclipse-data-collection/.

W8EDU club faculty advisor David Kazdan, AD8Y, said the research project has received positive attention from the ARRL Collegiate Amateur Radio Program community, the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) community, and Case Western Reserve University's engineering deans. "It is already a truly international effort, and we are collaborating with more than 20 stations across the continent, from collegiate and high school stations, to a representative from the Radio Amateurs of Canada, to a station in Mexico," said Kazdan.

The 2024 solar eclipse will over Mexico, the United States, and Canada. ARRL is a partner with HamSCI to help promote this opportunity for radio amateurs to participate in an active science experiment, through the Solar Eclipse QSO Party.

Find us on Facebook!

Did you know you can keep up with events and conversations between newsletters by joining the Sachse Amateur Radio Association on Facebook? Click the Facebook link above.

SARA Weekly Information Net

This net is held every Monday @ 7:00 PM

W5SRA Repeater:
440.350MHz
+5.0MHz
PL Tone 110.9

Sunday Public Service Net
W5SRA Repeater 440.350, Tone 110.9 @8:00 PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Every Monday - "SARA Weekly Information Net" 7:00pm W5SRA Repeater

440.350 MHz,
Offset +5.00 Mhz,
PL tone: 110.9

Mar 2nd - ***"Irving TX Hamfest"*** Over 50 sellers filling more than 70 vendor tables with numerous ham radio-related items.

Apr 8th - ***"Total Solar Eclipse"*** Texas will be an amazing destination for the total solar eclipse! Be prepared to see the greatest sight nature offers, a total eclipse of the Sun. Click here for more info.

Coming Soon - ***"The Young DFW Hamfest hosted by the Denton County ARC "*** will be expand this summer to a day and a half show Stay tuned for more details.

Other Events

Garland Amateur Radio Club to hold training classes in 2024
FCC license preparation classes:

General: 03/26-04/30/24 for 6 Tuesday nights at 6:30

For information contact John KF5FWK at email:

education@k5qhd.org

Future Meeting Topics

Apr 11th - ***"QSL History of W5RBO Raymond (Silent Key)— Extensive QSO Card Collection"*** Dave Piekarski K5EEN

May 9th - ***"Field Day 2024 Preparation"*** Mike Crow W5MKC—Vice President

June 13th - ***"Field Day 2024 Final Coordination"*** Mike Crow W5MKC—Vice President

Up and Away

In August of 2018, I put my first HF antenna up. It was a 25' wire sloper, going from a 10' feed pole (PVC pipe) into a pecan tree in my back yard.

The design comprehended several factors:

1. Cost. I didn't want to spend a fortune. So, I used wires.
2. Physical limitations. My back yard is only so big, and there is an old pecan tree in the middle of it. I'm not cutting the tree down.
3. Deed restrictions. My neighborhood prohibits any structure over 45 feet tall, and the placement has to be such that if that structure falls over, it falls entirely inside of my property lines. That means that it has to be in the middle of the lot.
4. RF safety. I don't want man or beast getting bitten by RF.

That last thing is the reason that I started my wire antenna at 10 feet, instead of ground level. It would have worked better at ground level, but I would have had to fence it off.

The Law of Unintended Consequences

The antenna worked far better than I had any right to expect. The only problem initially was RF in the shack. put a "line isolator" in the feedline which took care of it.

Failed Attempt to Duplicate It

A year ago, I decided to try and duplicate the house antenna. I designed a field portable version, and built it. It didn't work anything like the antenna at the house that it was inspired by. And I did not know why.

Back to EZNEC

A couple of months ago, I had some time to waste, so I went into EZNEC and modeled the house antenna (again). Nothing made sense. Then I put in a model of my house wiring.

Bingo. There it was.

My house wiring was working as a parasitic element. That was because the antenna feed point had been raised to 10 feet for RF safety reasons. That put the feed point above the height of the house wiring, which goes over the ceiling joists in the house.

In effect, the house wiring is re-radiating RF from the driven wire in the sloper. It is re-radiating it in the horizontal (NVIS) plane. The result is a dual polarity antenna - horizontal and vertical - which is very desirable when working HF DX. With HF DX, the polarity of the incoming signal is unknown, and single polarity antennas can reduce the received signal drastically, leading to fading.

Back to the Park

After this epiphany, my interest in building a portable antenna with the same performance as my house antenna was rekindled. My first experiment took place this week.

In my "go box" is what I call the "antenna of last resort". It's a 5 foot, collapsible stick antenna with a base load. It was made for an FT-817 (QRP), and it collapses down to about a foot in length. My purpose for this thing is to use it on a picnic table top under a shed at the park. This is the fallback plan when inclement weather makes it impractical to deploy antennas outside.

It's an "antenna of last resort" because it is a too-short antenna. A 20 meter quarter wave antenna is nearly 17 feet long. Per my antenna experiments last year, a 5 foot long base loaded antenna on 20 meters would be down about 6 dB from a full-length quarter wave antenna.

When running QRP, this antenna is a dog. When you have no power to begin with, cutting your signal by 6 dB is a disaster.

Oh, But Maybe Not!

I use this antenna with a "tuned" (misnomer) 20 meter counterpoise wire, which I throw on the ground. I say "misnomer" because a quarter wave counterpoise wire thrown on the ground is now a microstrip transmission line. Electrically, it is no longer a 1/4 wave.

So, this time, I took the counterpoise wire from the table top height, and instead of throwing it on the ground, I elevated it. I stretched it out horizontally to a fiberglass ski pole.

Then I sent "CQ" on 20 meters (CW), and took a look at the Reverse Beacon Network to see where my signal went.

All Of A Sudden, NVIS

The Reverse Beacon Network report was astounding. I got my usual 800 to 1200 mile spots, typical of a vertical antenna. But now….there were also some great 400 mile spots - 23 dB - and that's with a 3 watt transmitter.

That was from the mere fact that I had elevated the counterpoise to the height of the base of the vertical stick, which was sitting on the wooden picnic table top.

Magic At This Site

This particular park site is magical.

When I say "magical"..-.. I once took a 1 watt FT8 radio to that location... and got spotted in Eastern Europe. The park is high up, elevation - wise. The picnic tables/sheds have enough setback from surrounding houses so that my signal clears the structures.

I suspect that wooden lamp poles with ground wires (lightning protection) are acting as parasitic vertical elements, beaming my signal to the Northeast.

Moral of the Story

Elevated radial wires change the antenna pattern. In my case, they gave me NVIS "for free".

As far as parasitic elements go…-… antenna theory says that receiving antennas, which are tuned to a "conjugate match" (purely resistive) re-radiate 50% of the signal that they receive.

In the RF world, everything is a parasitic something. Even your house wiring. Even me.

- Jim Eatman
KG5WAW

SARA Club Officers for 2023-2024

Current officers for the Sachse Amateur Radio Association, per the election held at the September 2023 General Meeting.

President	Andy Barnes	W5KZJ
Vice President	Mike Crow	W5MJC
Secretary	Kathy Wingo	KI5LEY
Treasurer	Linda Smyder	K5LCS
Public Information Officer	Jeff Feldman	KI5DDX
Director at Large	John Smyder	W5JWS
Newsletter Editor	Ev Wingo	KI5LEX

JOIN THE ARRL

As an ARRL Affiliated Club, SARA receives a commission for every **new** ARRL membership and **renewal** we submit to ARRL Headquarters and get to retain a portion of the dues for each regular membership submitted.

Clubs retain **$15 for each new membership** OR lapsed membership (of two years or more). A NEW MEMBER is defined as any individual who has never been a member of ARRL or any individual who has not retained a membership for two or more calendar years prior to the application submission.

Clubs retain **$5 for each renewal**. A RENEWING MEMBER can renew at anytime, even before their current membership term expires.

You can download the ARRL Affiliated Club Membership form here.

Once downloaded, complete the form and get it to the club Treasurer along with a check made out to 'Sachse Amateur Radio Association' and we will submit your ARRL membership application/renewal to ARRL Headquarters. (**NOTE**: ARRL Headquarters is working on getting an on-line version working so that you can go directly to them and the ARRL will send the club a check for any new or renewed memberships.)

The April 2024 Solar Eclipse

On April 8, 2024, a celestial spectacle will grace the skies of North America - a total solar eclipse[4]. This astronomical event occurs when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, completely obscuring the Sun's face[6]. The sky will darken, mimicking the conditions of dawn or dusk[6].

The eclipse's path of totality, where observers can witness the full eclipse, is a narrow track stretching from Texas to Maine[4]. Outside this path, a partial eclipse will be visible throughout all 48 contiguous U.S. states[4]. The eclipse will begin over the South Pacific Ocean, with the first location in continental North America to experience totality being Mexico's Pacific coast at around 11:07 a.m. PDT[4].

The eclipse will then continue its journey, entering the United States in Texas, and traveling through Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine[4]. Small parts of Tennessee and Michigan will also experience the total solar eclipse[4]. The eclipse will exit continental North America on the Atlantic coast of Newfoundland, Canada, at 5:16 p.m. NDT[4].

For the best viewing experience, travelers are advised to find an area with clear weather within the 115-mile-wide path of totality[2]. Locations such as Oklahoma[1], Michigan[3], and others offer prime viewing spots.

This total solar eclipse presents a unique opportunity for skywatchers and astronomers alike to witness and study a rare celestial event. As we count down the days to this awe-inspiring spectacle, remember to prepare adequately and ensure you have the proper equipment to safely view the eclipse[5].

Source:

(1) 2024 Total Eclipse: Where & When - NASA Science.

(2) 2024 Total Solar Eclipse - Science@NASA.

(3) Best place to see the April 2024 solar eclipse?

(4) 2024 total solar eclipse.

(5) Solar eclipse 2024.

(6) Eclipse Path of Total Solar Eclipse.

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES

Working on a project that you think the club members would be interested in? Read a good HAM related article somewhere? Send articles to SARA Newsletter Editor: newsletteredtor@sachseradio.org

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

SARA vice-president Mike Crow, W5MJC heads up the SARA Activities Committee. Anyone who is willing to help or has ideas may contact Mike at: vicepresident@sachseradio.org

SARA BRANDED GEAR

We now have two suppliers for SARA gear. Both of these companies have our logo on file.

HamThreads will do hats, shirts, jackets and vests. They can do single items. HamThreads is in Saginaw.
https://www.hamthreads.com

SARA NAME BADGES

If you need a SARA name badge please go to:
https://namebadge.com/sachse

2024 Eclipse
Impact on Ham Radio

Solar eclipses have a notable impact on high-frequency (HF) amateur radio, primarily due to changes in the ionosphere, the layer of the Earth's atmosphere that reflects radio waves and enables long-distance communication[4,5].

During a solar eclipse, the Moon blocks the Sun's radiation, leading to a decrease in ionization in the ionosphere[3,4]. This reduction in ionization causes a decrease in electron density[3,4], which can affect the propagation of radio waves, particularly in the HF range[4].

As solar illumination decreases in the shadow of the eclipse, electrons recombine with ions at a faster rate than they are produced[3]. This results in less absorption and can influence lower band HF propagation[3]. These changes can make it more difficult for ham radio operators to communicate effectively, but they can also create favorable conditions for long-distance communication under certain circumstances[5].

Amateur radio operators often participate in studies during solar eclipses to help scientists better understand these effects[1]. For example, during the April 2024 solar eclipse, the Case Amateur Radio Club is recruiting North American amateur stations interested in recording the Canadian time standard station CHU to study the effects of the eclipse on propagation[1].

Remember, while solar eclipses present unique opportunities for amateur radio operators and scientists, it's important to use proper equipment and safety measures when observing these celestial events[5].

Source:

(1) The Impact of Solar Eclipses on the Structure and Dynamics of Earth's Upper Atmosphere.

(2) *Withdrawn*

(3) Effects of the 2017 Solar Eclipse on HF Radio Propagation and the D –Region Ionosphere

(4) Amateur Radio Operators Needed for Help with Solar Eclipse Project

(5) The odd way eclipses affect radio - BBC.

(6) W8EDU—Case Amateur Radio Club

Lite Tech Corner—Episode 1

Getting on the air via a repeater

What does it take to get that new shiny hand held or mobile radio to be able to communicate through our repeater? Unfortunately, one can't just charge the battery, tune to the repeater frequency, and have it work. There are three pieces of information that the radio must know about: the repeater transmit frequency, the offset frequency (the repeater's receive frequency) and direction (plus or minus), and the tone used to trigger the repeater to listen to you.

When you look up our UHF repeater's information on the club website (www.sachseradio.org), you'll find the following entry: Callsign – W5SRA, Frequency – 440.350, Offset – +5 MHz (that's plus 5.0), along with location data, etc. So what does this mean when you want to enter it into the radio?

- First, set the radio to VFO mode (not memory mode) and tune it to 440.350 MHz.
- Second, find the means to set the frequency offset for your particular radio. It's usually just called offset or offset frequency. Enter 5.0 MHz. This causes the radio to transmit on the repeater's receive frequency by shifting the 440.350 up by 5 MHz.
- Third, find the setting for the type of offset – this will be simplex (no offset), plus or minus. Plus means to add 5 MHz to the 440.350 MHz frequency during transmit. (Minus means subtract instead of add which would apply to some other repeaters around the country.)
- Fourth, find the setting for tone type. Set it to tone squelch. Then find the spot to enter the tone frequency – this will be a small value, 110.9 (hertz) in our case.

If all is well, you should be able to key your radio to activate its transmitter, announce your call sign, and ask for a radio check. When you release the transmit button, you should hear a short noise burst before the squelch circuit quiets it. This lets you know that you did indeed activate the repeater. Hopefully, someone is listening and will provide a confirmation that all is well.

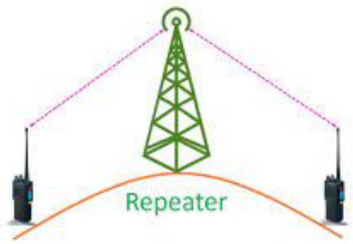
To prevent having to do this all over again each time you want to go to another repeater and come back, save the settings into the radio's memory for later recall.

And if you want to make programming your radio even easier, get a programming cable and software to allow you to enter the data via computer and transfer it to the radio.

Enjoy that new radio!

73,

Bob DeVance K5CRX



Proposed changes to the SARA By-laws.

Discussion was held during the January general meeting about some proposed changes to the SARA By-laws. The proposed changes are below, with the new / added text presented in red*, the* ~~deleted test in red strikeout font~~*. Comments not a part of the bylaws are shown in* (ALL CAPS)*. These changes will be discussed again in the February, referencing the proposed new text shown as follows:*

Article III Officers

3.01 Positions. Elected officers of the Sachse Amateur Radio Association shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Information Officer, Newsletter Editor, and Director-At-Large. These officers shall constitute the Board of Directors and shall carry out all the duties of officers and directors as defined in the Bylaws and by the Articles of Incorporation.

A. President. The President shall preside at all meetings of this club, and conduct the same according to the rules adopted. The President shall enforce due observance of this Constitution and By-Laws, decide all questions of order, sign all official documents that are adopted by the club, and none other, and perform all other customary duties pertaining to the office of President including the establishment of all committees. The President shall serve as an ex officio member of all committees. The President may appoint a Parliamentarian. The President shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

B. Vice-President. The Vice-President shall assume all the duties of the President in the absence of the latter. The Vice-President shall be the chairperson of the Activities Committee and shall be a member of the Business Committee. In the event of a vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President will assume that office. The Vice-President shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

C. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings including meetings of the Business Committee, keep a roll of membership, carry on all correspondence, and read communications at each meeting. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the Constitution and By-Laws of the club and have the same with him or her at every meeting. The Secretary shall permit the same to be consulted by members upon request. Within three months of assuming office, the Secretary shall furnish a copy of the constitution to each member. The Secretary will also be a member of the Business Committee. The Secretary shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

D. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and receipt all monies paid to the club and keep an accurate account of all monies received and expended. The Treasurer shall pay no bills without proper authorization by the club or its officers constituting a Business Committee. At the end of each quarter, the Treasurer shall submit an itemized statement of disbursement and receipts. The Treasurer will be responsible for timely filing of all documents required by the state and federal governments and will document this to the board of directors. The Treasurer will be a member of the Business Committee. The Treasurer shall make available to the membership the finances of the club on an annual basis, to be presented at the September Meeting. The Treasurer will file the required financial reports with the Texas Comptroller and with the Internal Revenue Service annually by the due date for such documents and will report this action to the organization. The Treasurer, and at least one other officer of the club, will have a review of the previous year's account statements on the month following annual elections. The Treasurer shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

E. Public Information Officer. The Public Information Officer shall be responsible for external promotion of the club to the local community. He/She maintains the club "website" with upcoming ham radio-related events and opportunities to demonstrate amateur radio to the general public at special events. The Public Information Officer would also be responsible for the club social media accounts as an Administrator, and would be responsible in getting Network Control Stations for weekly nets. The Public Information Officer shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

F. Newsletter Editor. The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for the publishing of SARA newsletter. He/She is required to abide by these bylaws governing publication of the newsletter. The Newsletter Editor shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors.

G. Director at Large. The Director at Large is elected by the general membership to serve on the Board of Directors. This position provides the tie-breaker vote and represents the general membership of the club to the Board of Directors.

2.03 Member Type. Membership privileges and dues are as follows: ***(PARAGRAPH g ADDED)***

g. All first-time licensees that test with Laurel be granted a full membership for the remainder of the current membership year at no charge.

Article IV Meeting Procedures

• 6.01 Meetings. Regular meetings shall be held each month at such a place, as officers shall order. The President may call special meetings. ~~Written notices shall be sent twenty five days before special meetings concerning the business to be transacted.~~ Written notice shall be sent a minimum of 72 hours before the special meeting concerning the business to be transacted. Only such business as designated shall be transacted at special meetings.

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
General Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2024

Start time: 7:30 p.m.

Location: North Pointe Church

Facilitator: President Andy Barnes W5KZJ

Everyone stood and joined in to say The Pledge of Allegiance.

Members and guests introduced themselves with names and call sign.

Attendees:

Andy Barnes W5KZJ
Doug Priebe AG5HB
Kathy Wingo KI5LEY
Johnnie Young KG5CQO
Jeff Feldman KI5DDX
Lonnie Webb KG5WHQ
Jose Quiles WA5CW
Tessa Devance KF5FED
Dave Gross W6JDG
Ev Wingo KI5LEX
Joe Ellis KN5Y
Bob Devance K5CRX

New member: Everett Simonds KE5MMT was recognized.

Presentation:

Members of the Sasche Amateur Radio Association wish to express their gratitude to Bob Devance K5CRX for his presentation on "A Survey of Classic Wire Antennas".

Business Meeting:

President's Report – Andy Barnes W5KZJ

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday February 22nd 7 p.m. via Google Meet. There is a link in SARA Skywaves, allare welcome. The next General Meeting will be on Thursday March 14th at 7:30 p.m. at North Point Church.

Currently the member count for the membership year (as of 02/01/2024) is 45 members (44 licensed and 2 honorary). 36 membersare currently ARRL members (80%).

Upcoming General Meeting Subject Plans:

March – Dave Gross W6JDG – Winlink Basics
April – Dave Piekarski K5EEN – QSL History of Raymond W5RBO (Silent Key)

Future General Meeting Topics:

- Ideas for upcoming meetings
- Please help with subject matter

Vice President's Report – Mike Crow W5MJC (not present)

Activities – Field Day 2024

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
General Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2024

Review Previous Meeting Minutes – Kathy Wingo KI5LEY

The minutes for January 2024 were in the newsletter and on the website.

MOTION: Kathy Wingo KI5LEY made a Motion to approve the January minutes.
Dave Gross W6JDG seconded the Motion.
Discussion, none.
Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer Report – Linda Smyder W5LCS (not present)

Andy Barnes W5KZJ reviewed the January 2024 treasurer report.

A copy of the Treasurer Report can be requested from Linda Smyder K5LCS.

MOTION: Ev Wingo KI5LEX made a Motion to approve the January Finance Report.
Dave Gross W6JDG seconded the Motion.
Discussion, none.
Motion carried unanimously.

Public Information Officer's Report - Jeff Feldman KI5DDX

- Saturday QSO Breakfast @ Ballard Street Café @ 7:30 a.m.
- SARA's Weekly Information Net, Monday at 7:00 p.m.
- Next Laurel VE Session February 17th @ North Pointe Church, 9 – 11 a.m..
- Dallas County SkyWarn February 17th 9:00 to 1:00. Granville Art Center, 300 N. 5th Street, Garland.
- Garland Amateur Radio Club to hold classes in 2024
  Technician 1/23/24 to 2/27/24 for 6 Tuesday nights at 6:30
  General 3/26/24 to 4/30/24 for 6 Tuesday nights at 6:30
  For more information contact John KF5FWK @ education@K5qhd.org

SARA Information Net

The SARA Information Net is held on Monday, at 7:00 p.m. Weekly Information Net Control:

- February 19th Kathy Wingo KI5LEY
- February 26th Mike Crow W5MJC
- March 4th Dave Gross W6JDG
- March 11th Andy Barnes W5KZJ
- March 18th Jeff Feldman KI5DDX
- March 25th Ev Wingo KI5LEX
- April 1st Kathy Wingo KI5LEY
- April 8th Andy Barnes W5KZJ

Newsletter Editor's Report - Ev Wingo KI5LEX

The February newsletter has been posted to the website and emailed to membership (distribution 144).

Submissions for the newsletter are due by the 25th of each month. The goal is to have the newsletter out on the 1st of each month.

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
General Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2024

Newsletter Editor Report (cont'd)

Article Ideas:

- Projects that you are working on or have completed,
- Events and activities related to amateur radio,
- Articles you have read in other publications,
- Member Spotlight
    - Please submit about 250-300 words.

Remember, our distribution is beyond our membership and our content could encourage other people to come get involved!!

Send pictures and articles to newslettereditor@sachseradio.org

Business Cards and Brochures:

At the last meeting it was voted to purchase updated eyeball QSO cards and brochures, the cost not to exceed $250. It was suggested to have a QR code on the cards and brochures. There is not room for the QR code on the card, so we are asking you to remove the information from the back and replace it with the QR code.

Johnnie Young KG5CQO stated that she liked having the phonetic alphabet on the back of the business card. Andy Barnes W5KZJ stated that he is not grabbing for the SARA business card when he is talking on the radio and the club would be better served with the QR code on the back of the card.

MOTION: Andy Barnes W5KZJ made a Motion to approve the removal of the information on the back of the card and replace it with the QR code.
Ev Wingo KI5LEX seconded the Motion.
Discussion, none.
Motion carried, with Johnnie Young KG5CQO and Lonnie Webb KG5WHQ being opposed.

Tabled MOTION:

At the January meeting Johnnie Young KG5CQO stated that she did not agree with placing the club's finances in the minutes, newsletter, and website for anyone outside of the club to see. There was a discussion after which the following MOTION was made:

MOTION: Johnnie Young KG5CQO made a motion not to include the financial information in the minutes or newsletters.
Motion died due to the lack of a second.

MOTION: Linda Smyder K5LCS made a motion to table the financial information and bring it back next month for discussion.
Jim Szot N5JS seconded the motion.
Motion carried with Ev Wingo KI5LEX being opposed.

<u>This item will remain on the table for discussion at the next meeting.</u>

New Business:

Changes to By-Laws

Article III Officers

- A through F add: Shall be a voting member on all business of the Board of Directors to be added to each.

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
General Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2024

New Business (cont'd)

Article II Membership

- ~~All new licensees~~ All first time licensee that test that test with Laurel be granted membership for the remainder of the current ~~fiscal~~ membership year at no charge.

Article IV Meeting Procedures

- 6.01 Meetings. Regular meetings shall be held each month at such a place, as officers shall order. The President may call special meetings. ~~Written notices shall be sent twenty-five days before special meetings~~ Written notice shall be sent a minimum of 72 hours before the special meeting concerning the business to be transacted. Only such business as designated shall be transacted at special meetings.

The full verbiage of the proposed by law changes was on page 6 of the February newsletter for the members to consider. It will also be printed in the March newsletter and voted on at the March meeting.

Other Business:

Joe Ellis KN5Y made a proposal to create a spreadsheet of members test equipment that they would be willing to share with other members of the club.

Adjournment:

MOTION: Kathy Wingo KI5LEY made a Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m.
Jose Quiles WA5CW seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectively Submitted by
Kathy Wingo
KI5LEY

SARA Skywaves

Is published each month for the purpose of informing Sachse Amateur Radio Association members of current events and issues of interest to amateur radio operators. Articles and suggestions are always welcome. Articles that appear in this publication may be reproduced provided credit is given to ***SARA Skywaves*** and to the original source.
SARA is a Texas Non-Profit 501(c)3 corporation based in Sachse, TX.

SARA Newsletter Editor
P.O. Box 1764
Wylie, TX 75048-1764

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
Board Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2024

Start time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Google Meet

Facilitator: Andy Barnes W5KZJ, President

The invocation was offered by Andy Barnes W5KZJ, President.

President Andy Barnes W5KZJ thanked everyone for attending.

Attendees:

Andy Barnes – W5KZJ
John Smyder – W5JWS
Jeff Feldman – KI5DDX
Mike Crow – W5MJC
Ev Wingo – KI5LEX
Linda Smyder – K5LCS
Kathy Wingo – KI5LEY

1. **It was suggested at the last club meeting by Joe Ellis KN5Y that the club put together a spreadsheet of equipment owned by club members that they would be willing to share with the rest of the membership.**

   Making the spreadsheet is the easy part. If a member needs something they just ask if anyone has the piece of equipment and are willing to share it. If a member has equipment they would be willing to share it would need to be made known that the club is not responsible for equipment. The borrowing and use of equipment will be between the two parties. There was some discussion about bringing this to the membership for discussion.

   ACTION: Jeff Feldman KI5DDX said he was willing to draft the spreadsheet.

2. **Field Day Preparation**

   There was some discussion about bringing a Boy Scout Troop to participate so that they can earn any badges associated with amateur radio. Keep in mind that the scouts might need facilities to conduct their class.

   ACTION: Mike Crow W5MJC will contact a few scout contacts to see if they would like to participate in Field Day.

3. **Is the Sachse Amateur Radio Association a member of the Sachse Chamber of Commerce?**

   The answer was yes. In the minutes of September 2022, the budget proposed had Chamber of Commerce dues. In the minutes the budget approved by the members had the Chamber of Commerce stricken from the budget. It was never discussed again. The vote removed the Chamber from the budget, but we joined anyway. Not sure that the Club joined the Chamber of Commerce for 2024.

4. **Budget**

   A budget should be presented to the members for discussion each year. There are only a few line items that are paid for each year, and it has been the practice to pay those without discussion if the same cost or only increased by 10%.

   ACTION: Andy Barnes W5KZJ will present a proposed budget at the next meeting for membership to discuss.

Sachse Amateur Radio Association
Board Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2024

5. Other Business

Microsoft Publisher being used for the newsletter currently is a personal copy. For future newsletter editors there might have to be a subscription. Subscriptions currently are approximately $35 per month. It was stated that Publisher will be phased out October 2026. An alternative software is Canva. It can create newsletters and is free for a 501c3 organization.

ACTION: John Smyder W5JWS will investigate getting Canva for the club. Ev Wingo KI5LEX will work with John Smyder W5JWS to see if this alternative will work.

6. Adjourn

MOTION: Andy Barnes W5KZJ made the motion to adjourn the meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m. John Smyder W5JWS seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted.
Kathy Wingo
KI5LEY

Weekly Information Net Control Station Script

This net control script is a ***SUGGESTED*** script for the NCS to use to conduct the weekly net. NCS should feel free modify this script as needed to encourage maximum participation by all net participants.

(NCS Reads the text in black. Instructions to NCS are in (red).)

(A list of potential questions to ask the net attendees can be found here.)

(Preamble)

Good evening all Radio Amateurs and welcome. This is (Your Call), my name is (Your Name), and I will be your Net Control Station for this session of Ham Radio in Sachse Weekly Information Net. This net meets every Monday night at 7:00 PM local time, on the W5SRA repeater, frequency 440.350, with an offset of +5, and using a PL tone of 110.9, for the purpose of discussing topics of interest to SARA members and others. (pause) This is a Directed Net. Please do not transmit unless directed to do so by Net Control. If the repeater should go down, everyone should switch to the Sachse emergency simplex frequency 146.400.

Also, if at any time, you have an emergency that is an imminent threat to life or property, break in by saying *"Priority", "Emergency", or "Break Break"* followed by your call sign, and the net will recognize your station and will stand by.

(Pause)
(A reminder—Net Control Should ID about every 10 minutes.)

(Check-Ins)
As we start check-ins this evening, we will break it down into a couple of categories.

1. Portable, mobile and short time check-ins.
2. General Check-ins

We will initially stand-by for portable, mobile and short time check-ins. Please, come now with your phonetic call sign, followed by your name.

(Recognize short time, portable and mobile check-ins individually.)
(Go through the list and allow each station to make any comments that they might have.)
(ASK for any additional check-ins.)

We will now standby for general check-ins. Please, check in now with your phonetic call sign, followed by your name.

(Go through the list and allow each station to make any comments that they might have. Then ask for more check-ins – this might need to be done 2 or 3 or more times – until there are no more check-ins.)
(Make sure you give your own call-sign regularly and allow others to ID appropriately as well.)
(ASK for any additional check-ins.)

(Club Announcements)

We will start off with club announcements from club officers. Any club officer on the net with an announcement, please give us your call sign.

(Aways make certain the weekly QSO eyeball breakfast is announced)

SARA meets for breakfast every Saturday morning at 7:30AM at Ballard Street Cafe, 112 N. Ballard St. in downtown Wylie. People begin showing up around 7 with most showing up by 7:30AM.

(General Announcements)

At this time, we will take stations with announcements of interest to the amateur radio community in general.

(When Ham Operators check-in initially, they may tell you if they have an announcement for later in the Net. Make note of those who have announcements and recognize them first.)

(TECH CORNER and SWAP NET)

Is there anyone who would like to ask a technical question, or share information on something they would like to buy or sell?Remember no haggling over price. Please come now with your call sign.

(Wrap-Up)

This is (your name and call). We wish to thank all who participated in the net this evening. This net will meet again next Monday night at 7:00 PM local time on the W5SRA Repeater. The Sachse Amateur Radio Association meets the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM at North Point Church of Christ, 7030 Hwy 78, Sachse , TX. The Sachse Amateur Radio Association Board of Directors meets the fourth Thursday at 7:00 PM on Google Meet. A link for this meeting is in the club calendar.

(Late Check-Ins)

Before we end this Net, I would like to take late check-ins. If there are any late check-ins, please give your call sign and name slowly and clearly.

(Write down and read back each call sign).

(Close the net)

This concludes the "Ham Radio in Sachse '' Weekly Information Net. If you would like more information about the Sachse Amateur Radio Association, please visit our web site at www.sachseradio.org. This is *(name and call sign)* and we now return the W5SRA repeater to its normal use. Hope to hear from you next week.